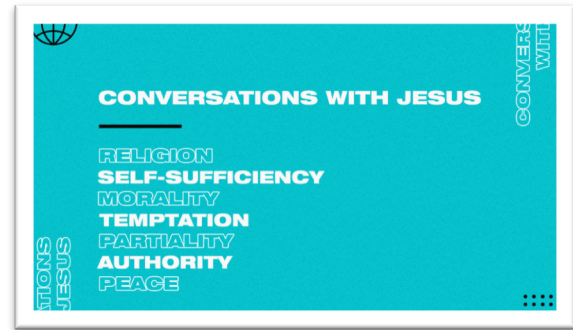


A CONVERSATION ABOUT PEACE

JOHN 21:15-23 // TODD DUGARD
MAY 31, 2020



I'll be at peace when there are no unconfessed sin issues (21:15-17), no fighting God on his plan (21:18-19), and no comparing myself to others (21:20-23).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"I feel sorry for the Christian who doesn't have something in the circumstances of his life that he wishes were not there."—Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*. Do you agree with Oswald Chambers' sentiment expressed in the above quote? Why or why not?

See John 16:33 for a reminder of Jesus' promise of peace to his disciples. Where does Jesus tell his disciples that they will find peace? Why can't we expect peace to come from just having a good relationship with a church?

Read Psalm 38:1-4. How does confessing your sin lead to peace in your spirit and body? Conversely, what are some of the significant physical and emotional consequences experienced when you remain silent about your sin?

Cont'd...

Jesus told Peter that he would be killed for his love and devotion to him. Peter's commitment to the plan for his life would cause him to suffer. Perhaps you have had the sense that a strong commitment following God's plan would result in greater suffering for you. If suffering is in God's plan for your life, what assurances would give you peace to keep moving forward in faith? Do you already have any of those assurances from the scriptures?

Do you struggle with peace because you've been comparing yourself inappropriately to another person? Who seems to have it better than you do? Can you pinpoint what is different about your situations that gives you reasons to worry, envy, or fear? What do you think that difference means? *(I.e., Dwayne drives an older model car than his neighbour. Dwayne thinks financial success is indicated when he owns a vehicle that is equal or greater in value than his neighbour's car. He's worried because he measures his worth by a human standard instead of God's word.)*

Comparing myself to others:
(1) Compromises my view of God
(2) Complicates my relationships with people
(3) Clouds my thinking
(4) Confuses my purpose

The world needs the peace that Jesus offers. It's the only way to overcome the anxiety of living in this world. If you have not found peace in following Jesus, what is keeping you from experiencing it? If you have found peace in Jesus, how are you sharing your peace with others, especially during times of crisis and uncertainty?